

of wine-lees." Through the oxidation of castor-oil, butter, cocoa, etc., the chemist obtains certain acids: caprylic acid, caproic acid, etc. Under pressure these are etherized with ethylic, amyllic and propylic alcohols. With these various ethers, and a good supply of villainous alcohol, you can crowd a bar or stock a cellar with brandies and whiskies or whatever else you please. A few drops of the ether will flavor a large volume of the alcohol. There are qualities in "bouquets." For common folks there are ordinary stuffs; but if you are particular, you can get a superior article. The fine "bouquets" are compounded out of nitro-benzine, prussic acid, essence of bitter almonds, benzonitril, lactate of methyl.

Nor has the modern trader or chemist neglected the favorite cordials or the popular "bitters." A sugared mixture and a few drops of the proper cordial "essence," and you have vermouth, or absinthe, or noyau. Drs. Magnan and Laborde analyzed these "essences." Their flavoring qualities depend on the presence of salicylate of methyl, salicylic aldehyde, benzoic aldehyde, or benzonitril. These are all frightful poisons. Salicylate of methyl causes epilepsy, convulsions, hysteria. Salicylic aldehyde, which is the ordinary flavoring used in vermouth and in "bitters," induces epilepsy; while benzoic aldehyde, the bouquet of the noyau of the day provokes tetanic convulsions. Ah! you epicure of the Neapolitan or Parisian American *table d'hôte*; you connoisseur, *gourmet* of the "wine-included" Bordeaux, the mocking smile forsakes your dainty lips! You are engaged suddenly with an interesting problem. Let me divine its scope. On your contracted mental black-board you are figuring the probable potency of the customary *pousse-café* at Monsieur Bonvin's or at Signor Falsificatorelli's? Of course I was right! And you are pleased with the result! Egad!

it is my turn to laugh. After this why not buy your own drugs and glucose? You doubt if the druggist would sell you the things without a physician's perscription? And why not? Have I forgotten the law against selling poisons? No, sir, I have not. And now let me ask you a question: Why should this law cover the apothecary's counter and not extend to the restaurant bar? They have a famous astronomer in Virginia, Brother Jasper, who maintains that "the sun *do* move." Do you not think that if our gifted brother were to turn his powerful optics on the earth's crust he would find large sections that do *not* move, and, more important still, that we are located on one of them?

The man of means, who knows good liquor from bad, and who is willing to pay for the good, can have good brandies or whiskeys or gins. But what of the mass of our population? All they can have are poisonous solutions, ruinous to health when drunk in moderation, and speedily fatal when drunk immoderately — poisons that craze before they kill. The evil is positive, patent and of wide and lasting effect. It is an evil affecting the welfare, not only of the living citizen and the existing state, but the welfare of the family, the growing children, the progeny still unborn. A remedy, immediate and adequate, is imperative in the interest of the commonweal. If the law cannot protect us from disease, the madness and the crime that are necessary concomitants of the poisoned liquors of the day, shall we not protect ourselves by means of private association? Shall we protect the horse and the dog and be cruel only to ourselves? Why empty the can of watered milk in the gutter and pass by the cask of poisoned, poisoning liquor in the bar-room cellar? Society should be awakened to the fact that our alcohols are not the alcohols of the past, that liquor